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SENATE MEMORIAL 96

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy M. Keller

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO NAME A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE IN NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITIES.

WHEREAS, traditionally, colleges and universities in the United States have relied on a shared governance model of organization, which allows faculty and staff to participate in the formulation of academic missions and policies and in the decision-making process of the institution; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, there has been a movement toward a corporate governance model that is based on running institutions of higher education like businesses; and

WHEREAS, the corporate governance model views the educational mission as just one aspect of the multi-faceted business in which the institution is engaged, including sports,

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1 entertainment, housing, health care and private corporate
2 research and development; and

3 WHEREAS, proponents of the corporate governance model
4 believe that university administrations must be able to act
5 swiftly in the face of changing circumstances and that
6 administrators must not be impeded in their ability to maintain
7 a competitive edge in today's difficult environment; and

8 WHEREAS, proponents of the shared governance model believe
9 that the academic mission must be paramount and that shared
10 governance provides a necessary check and balance on the power
11 of administrators and politically appointed governing boards;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, as noted in a university of California report on
14 the subject of shared governance, "without mutual participation
15 in decision making, the faculty and the administration would
16 stand apart on opposite sides of a table unproductively
17 complaining" about each other instead of facing together the
18 challenges of the times;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of higher education be
21 requested to name a working group made up of representatives
22 from faculty, administration and boards of regents of the
23 state's research and comprehensive universities; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed
25 of an even number, one-half of whom are faculty, one-fourth of

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1 whom are university presidents or high-level administrators and
2 one-fourth of whom are regents; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group study higher
4 education organization models, particularly as they relate to
5 state-funded universities; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group be requested to
7 consider principles of shared governance and other best
8 practices for university governance that could be adopted by
9 all of the state universities; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group report its
11 findings and recommendations to the governor, the higher
12 education department and the appropriate interim legislative
13 committees; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the
16 higher education department for appropriate distribution.

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